

R E M A R K S

In an effort to define the disclosed subject matter more precisely and to distinguish more clearly over the cited Nishikawa et al patent, independent claims 26 and 36 have been amended formally. These claims are respectfully submitted neither to be anticipated by the cited patent under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), nor to be obvious therefrom.

Applicants will analyze the claimed subject matter in a detailed comparison with Nishikawa et al in an effort to elucidate the differences between their invention and the prior art.

(1) Nishikawa et al nowhere suggest "A method of selectively connecting a **portable** electronic control and/or monitoring unit **movable by a user** to at least one machine or machine component **selectable by the user** in a plurality of machines or machine components **for control or monitoring by the user.**" According to Nishikawa et al, data signals are wirelessly transmitted from an undefined control station 1 to mobile robots 2-1, 2-2...2-10. These signals can be received by any robot. This arrangement in no way suggests a portable control unit movable by a user for enabling the user to select

a **specific** machine or machine component out of a plurality to control and/or monitor the **selected** machine or machine component.

(2) Nishikawa et al nowhere suggest setting up a clear link or log-on connection between his "control station" and a **point** on the **selected** machine or machine component. According to Nishikawa et al, a not further defined radio communication is established between the control station and all the robots.

(3) Nishikawa et al nowhere suggest that "once the connection has been acknowledged and established, a **planned** control and/or monitoring of the machine or machine component is managed **via another, standard transmission means.**" No such **further** data transmission means is found in Nishikawa et al, which enables the user of the portable control and/or monitoring unit to control and/or monitor the selected machine or machine component.

(4) Finally, Nishikawa et al nowhere suggest that a user manages the potential connection by means of an operating element on the portable control and/or monitoring unit. The "memory of the device," to which the Examiner has referred, has nothing to do with an operating element handled by the user on

the portable control and/or monitoring unit.

As the above detailed analysis is believed to show convincingly, the claimed method differs fundamentally and in almost every respect from that of Nishikawa et al, whose operation has been discussed in detail in the amendment filed March 14, 2003. To avoid redundancy, these remarks are incorporated herein by reference.

As to claim 36, similar comments apply thereto. Nishikawa et al nowhere suggest a **portable** control and/or monitoring unit movable by a user, which comprises an operating element for enabling the user to **selectively** establish and/or terminate the connection.

Nishikawa et al disclose a system for avoiding the collision of independently moving robots. Applicants disclose and claim a relatively simple, fault-free system, which in a cost-effective manner assures that an operator can control and/or monitor a machine or machine component selected by the operator. This is provided by the method recited in claim 26 and the device set forth in claim 36. This problem is not addressed by Nishikawa et al, much less solved by them. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed subject matter is not obvious from their disclosure, the

dependent claims being allowable with the independent claims whereon they depend.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 26-30, 34, 36-47, 49 and 50 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up claims:

26 (twice amended). A method of selectively connecting a [mobile,] portable electronic control and/or monitoring unit movable by a user to at least one machine or [at least one] machine component selectable by the user in a [group or a] plurality of machines or machine components [to be] for control[led] and/or monitoring[ed] by the user, for example robots, wherein [characterised in that during] a [connection] clear link or log-on [procedure] connection between the control and/or monitoring unit and a point on the [respective] selected machine or [a distant point on the] machine[, a clear link or log-on connection] component is set up by means of interfaces [to the] for a selected[,] wireless direction-finder of the [corresponding distant] point or by means of transmitters and/or receivers tuned to the transmission range or reception range, having a limited, localised [functional or] operating range and, once the connection has been acknowledged and established, [the programmed] a planned control and/or monitoring of the machine or the machine component is managed via another, standard data transmission means, for example a hard-wired network and/or [via] a wireless link between the control and/or monitoring unit and the selected machine or selected machine component, the connection being managed by the user simply by actively accepting/acknowledging the potential connection by means of an operating element on the control and/or monitoring unit.

36. (twice amended) A portable control and/or monitoring unit movable by a user, comprising [having] an input device with several operating elements and/or an optical display and having at least one interface to at least one control unit for one or more machines or machine components, for example robots, [in particular for applying a method as claimed in claim 26,

characterised in that] another interface for a wireless connection system to a co-operating [distant] point in or on the machine or machine component to be controlled and/or monitored [ensures that] for enabling the user to establish a clear [and selective] connection or link [can be established with or on] selected by the user between the control and/or monitoring unit [to] and the one or more machines or machine components to be monitored, and an operating element [is provided] on the input device for enabling the user to selectively establish[ing] and/or [terminating] terminate the connection.